

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 L-03 H-02 /020 W

----- 083996

R 021125Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 474

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 1364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, MI

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EMBASSY GOOD OFFICES IN CASE OF  
DETAINEE BERNARD HARAWA

REF: A. LILONGWE 1305 B. STATE 279610

1. TODAY AS REQUESTED I BROUGHT UP THE CASE OF HARAWA WITH PERMSEC OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, KACHINGWE. IN PAST KACHINGWE WAS REASONABLY HELPFUL AND FORTHCOMING WHEN I MADE GOOD OFFICES REPRESENTATIONS ON MRS. HARAWA'S BEHALF WHEN SHE STILL RESIDED IN MALAWI. HE TOLDSME THAT THE SUBJECT I RAISED WAS A "VARY DELICATE" ONE JUST NOW AND HE THOUGHT IT BETTER TO WAIT A FEW MORE WEEKS "TO SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN"; THAT TO RAISE A SPECIFIC CASE JUST NOW, AT THE REQUEST OF A THIRD PARTY, MIGHT BE NEGATIVE IN ITS CONSEQUENCES.

2. FYI: WHAT KACHINGWE WAS CONSIDERING IS THE REPORT WHICH WE HAVE ALSO HEARD FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, INCLUDING THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, THAT FOLLOWING THE DETENTIONS OF MUWALO AND GWEDE PRESIDENT BANDA HAS ASKED THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE TO REVIEW THE CASES OF POLITICAL DETAINEES TO ASCERTAIN THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN WRONGFULLY CHARGED BY GWEDE AND/OR MUWALO. PRESUMABLY IF THIS IS DETERMINED TO BE THE CASE THESE DETAINEES WILL BE RELEASED. THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER SHARES WITH ME THE THOUGHT THAT THE PRESIDENT MAY WELL TAKE CARE OF THE SITUATION TO HIS SATISFACTION BY DECLARING A CHRISTMAS AMNESTY FOR A NUMBER OF THESE DETAINEES. HE DID NOT GRANT HIS CUSTOMARY AMNESTY ON HIS NAME DAY EARLIER THIS YEAR AND RELEASING THESE DETAINEES THROUGH AN AMNESTY WOULD BE LESS  
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DAMAGING TO HIS EGO THEN TO GRANT THEIR RELEASE BASED ON AN

ADMISSION THAT THEY HAD BEEN WRONGFULLY CHARGED AND HELD. I  
AGREE WITH KACHINGWE THAT THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO PRESS THE  
CASE EVEN JUST FOR INFORMATION ON A GOOD OFFICES BASIS. BANDA  
REACTS VERY NEGATIVELY TO EVEN AN IMPLICATION OF OUTSIDE  
PRESSURE OR ADVICE. END FYI.

3. PLEASE TELL MRS. HARAWA, WHOM I SAW ON SEVERAL  
OCCASIONS ABOUT HER SAD SITUATION, THAT I URGE PATIENCE FOR  
THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. IF NOTHING MATERIALIZES IN THE WAY OF AN  
AMNESTY IN THIS TIME, I WOULD BE QUITE PREPARED TO GO TO  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AGAIN AND PRESS FOR INFORMATION AS TO HER  
HUSBAND'S WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS.  
STEVENSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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